Commission (3—7 June, 1994) in New Delhi, it was decided to set a target of increasing trade to Rs. 5000 crores within about two years. The present level of trade in 1993-94 with Russia was about Rs. 2800 crores. During Prime Minister's visit to Moscow and earlier during the visit of Mr. Yarov, discussions were held on raising the level of bilateral trade and on identifying and removing the hurdles in the way of trade. Some of the measures identified to boost the trade included encouraging a joint venture bank; development of the Novorossisk port on the Black Sea; improving warehousing and consignment trade facilities; and improving utilisation of debt repayment funds by measures sponsored by the Russian side like advancing rouble credits to Russian importers and reducing duties on goods imported from India. A Working Group on Trade and Economic co-operation met in Moscow (20-21 July, 1994) to further concretise decisions on boosting trade and economic co-operation.

(f) The Russian Government conveyed that they are considering allocating a part of the rupee available under the repayment account to private entities registered under Russian laws. The proposal however, at the preliminary stage and would involve only a part of the annual repayment funds.

प्लास्टिक टुकड़ों के आयात पर प्रतिबंध

*109. **श्री ईश दत्त यादव :**
श्री आस मोहम्मद :

क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार ने प्लास्टिक टुकड़ों के आयात पर प्रतिबन्ध लगाने का निर्णय किया है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ;

(ग) क्या भारतीय उपभोक्ता हाल ही में अन्य देशों में हुई प्लास्टिक क्रांति के लाभों से वंचित रह जायेंगे और इसके परिणामस्वरूप देश में कुछ कपनियों के एकाधिकार के कारण उन्हें अधिक कीमतें चुकानी पड़ेंगी; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो सरकार इस संबंध में क्या कार्यवाही कर रही है ?

वाणिज्य मंत्री (श्री प्रणव मुखर्जी) : (क) और (ख) प्लास्टिक की रद्दी सामग्री के आयात से पर्यावरण और स्वास्थ्य सबधी जो बड़े खतरे जुड़े हुए हैं उनको ध्यान में रखते हुए सभी तरह की प्लास्टिक रद्दी (पीईटी बाटल रद्दी को छोड़कर) के आयात पर रोक लगा दी गई है और आयात के लिए कुछ सुनिश्चित लाइसेंसों को छोड़कर अन्य मामलों में अनुमति नहीं दी जाती है। परन्तु एक कच्चे माल के रूप में प्लास्टिक (प्राथमिक क्वालिटी) के मुक्त आयात के लिए अनुमति जारी है।

(ग) जी, नहीं ।

(घ) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

Production of washed coal and raw coal

*110. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the over-all production of coal as on date;

(b) the target set for the production of coal from open cast mines, washed coal and raw coal etc. during 1994; and

(c) the steps taken to achieve the target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) The over all production of coal during 1993-94 was 246.04 milion tonnes. During

the current financial year (1994-95) as on 30.6.94 the over all production of raw coal is 51.28 million tonnes (provisional).

(b) The target of over all raw coal production; open cast production and washed coal production etc. for the year 1994-95 are as under:

(million tonnes)

Raw Coal	Open Cast Production	Washed Coal
253.60	*176.87	12.62

*excluding captive mines.

(c) Coal production from existing mines and on-going projects, (new and re-organised) will contribute towards achieving the target for the current year.

Amendment of industrial disputes Act

*111. SHRI RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI:
SHRI E. BALANANDAN:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what further steps have been taken to bring an amendment of Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 in consultation with the employees; and

(b) what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Labour had constituted a Bipartite Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri G. Ramanujam "to formulate specific proposals for the new Industrial Relation Bill." The report submitted by the Committee contained, inter alia, proposals to amend the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947. The proposals of the Committee were further considered by the Standing Labour Committee and the Indian Labour Conference. Based on the recommendations of the Ramanujam Committee and discussions held thereon in various forums, the Government have formulated a proposal for amendments to the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947. Broadly, the proposal is designed to ensure bipartism in industrial disputes resolution so as to avoid third party intervention to the maximum extent possible, to remove the restrictive provisions militating against the enhanced investments in the industrial sector, to provide for superior separation benefits to employees in circumstances of rationalisation of manpower and to streamline the Act so as to secure a greater degree of harmony in Industrial Relations conducive to increased production and productivity.

Supply of poor quantity of foodgrains through PDS

*112. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large section of people have been complaining about the supply of poor quality of foodgrains, particularly, wheat, rice and sugar through Public Distribution System (PDS);

(b) if so, what steps Government have so far taken or propose to take to improve the quality of foodgrains supplied through PDS in the country;

(c) whether most of the good quality foodgrains stored in the godowns of Civil Supplies department are exchanged for poor quality foodgrains by certain persons in connivance with the officials concerned;

(d) if so, the details of such complaints which have come to government's notice, State-wise;

(e) what remedial action Government have taken or propose to take in this regard; and

(f) whether Government have made any enquiry as to from which State/